

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 20 MEETING OF ISRAELI AND LEBANESE
OFFICERS

1. FRENCH EMBOFF HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT FRENCH
CONSULATE GENERAL JERUSALEM LEARNED FROM UNTSO THERE WAS
MEETING AT RAS NAKOURAH AUGUST 20 OF IDF OFFICERS HEADED
BY LTCOL GAL AND CAPTAIN ADDAN AND CAPTAIN SOUBRAH OF
LEBANESE ARMY (NOT LEBANESE ARAB ARMY). ADDAN DESCRIBED
HIMSELF AS IN CHARGE AND AS ACTING ON BEHALF OF LEBANESE
DEFENSE MINISTER.

2. ACCORDING TO FRENCH REPORT, ADDAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VILLAGERS OF
SOUTHERN LEBANON BUT ALSO VOICED HOPE THERE WOULD BE NO
IDF INCURSIONS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO

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BE OPPOSED. UNTSO WAS THEN ASKED BY ISRAELIS TO LEAVE

ROOM, AND ADDAN TOLD UNTSO AFTERWARDS ISRAELIS HAD ISSUED TWO WARNINGS: (A) IDF WOULD FIND IT NECESSARY TO USE FORCE IF ISRAELI HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF VILLAGERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WERE HINDERED; AND (B) IDF CONSIDERED ITSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFETY OF CHRISTIAN VILLAGES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND WAS READY TO INTERVENE IF VILLAGES WERE ATTACKED.

3. FRENCH EMBOFF OPINED THAT ADDAN MAY HAVE MADE IDF WARNINGS SOUND MORE SEVERE THAN THEY ACTUALLY WERE.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS HAD NOTHING ON ALLEGED AUGUST 20 MEETING AND IS INTERESTED IN ANYTHING POSTS MAY LEARN. KISSINGER

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